



National Institutes of Health
National Institute on Drug Abuse
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

What is National Drug Facts Week?

National Drug Facts Week (NDFW) is a health observance week for teens. The goal of NDFW is to shatter the myths about drugs and drug abuse. NDFW encourages community based events that give teens a physical or virtual space to ask questions about drugs and get factual answers from a scientific expert. NDFW is an initiative of the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), which supports most of the world's research on the health aspects of drug abuse and addiction.

When is National Drug Facts Week?

In its inaugural year, 2010, National Drug Facts Week will be celebrated from **Monday November 8th through Sunday November 14th, 2010**. On November 9th, NIDA will hold its annual Drug Facts Chat Day from 8 am to 6 pm EST.

Where is National Drug Facts Week Celebrated?

National Drug Facts Week will be celebrated in communities across the United States where teens and scientific experts come together to talk about drugs and drug abuse. The NDFW toolkit, located on www.drugfactsweek.drugabuse.gov, offers step by step suggestions for youth and sponsoring organizations on planning and promoting events.

Why Celebrate National Drug Facts Week?

About a third of high school seniors report using an illicit drug sometime in the past year, and more than ten percent report non medical use of a narcotic painkiller. While drugs can put a teenager's health and life in jeopardy, many teens are not aware of the risks. Even for those teens who do not abuse drugs, many have friends or family who do, and they are often looking for ways to help them. National Drug Facts Week events' encourage teens to get the scientific facts about drugs, so they will make healthy decisions for themselves and share this information with others.

How Did National Drugs Facts Week Start?

In 2008, NIDA scientists began hosting its annual Drug Facts Chat Day for teens, during which thousands of teens asked questions about drugs via a Web chat. Every year teens ask many more questions than the scientists can answer in a day. In response to this demonstrated interest NIDA developed National Drug Facts Week, asking teens, schools and community groups all over America to hold their own "Q and A" events with local scientific experts.

Who are NIDA's Partners for National Drug Facts Week?

NIDA has many federal, state and local partners working together to promote National Drug Facts Week. By reaching out to their networks, disseminating educational materials, and planning events, our partners are helping to shatter the myths about drugs and drug abuse.

For more information on National Drug Facts Week, visit the Web site <http://drugfactsweek.drugabuse.gov> or call 301-443-1124. To become a fan on Facebook, visit our Drug Facts Facebook page.